A Comparative Analysis of the Female Image in Emily Brontë's Wuthering Heights and Simin Daneshvar's Suvashun in Light of Elaine Showalter's Literary Gynocriticism

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Article Info	ABSTRACT
Article type: Research Article **Article history:** Received: 25 July 2021 Received in revised form: 30 April 2022 Accepted: 09 May 2022 Published online: December 2023 **Keywords**: Elaine Showalter, literary gynocriticism, sociolinguistics, Wuthering Heights, Suvashun.	The present study is based on the cultural model of Anglo-American female literary criticism of Elaine Showalter. This pattern refers to female writers who are the creators of feminine literary works and genres. In this regard, the current study, which utilizes a descriptive-analytical approach, is an attempt to compare how social and cultural themes are reflected in Simin Daneshvar's Suvashun (1969) and Emily Brontë's Wuthering Heights (1847). The portrayal of women in the two novels are analyzed based on the patterns of feminist literary criticism from Showalter's point of view (1981 and 1997). Examining the portrayal of society in the two novels, this paper highlights the common themes of love, marriage, emotional conflict, education and efforts to acquire female identity, role acceptance, and social status, which follow similar female attitudes and common concerns shared by the two writers. The characterizations of the two novels show the role of society in shaping female identity. Both authors analyze the limitations of women in the patriarchal society and its complex nature and describe how the concepts of femininity and feminine elegance are defined and imposed against the feminine nature. Despite all their capabilities, women cannot have an independent identity and, willingly or unwillingly, play the role dictated by society. Although the women in both novels are not properly educated, they both have different views on education. The main problem with which Simin Daneshvar deals is not educational discrimination, because work is basically out of reach, and education is, therefore, quite useless for women like Zari. Unlike Simin, Emily has a pessimistic view of formal education, especially religious education. Perhaps Simin's careful writing in Suvashun cannot be labeled "a feminist work." Nevertheless, she invites women to return to their true selves and the patriarchy to fairness and justice. Emily also depicts a society where gender distinctions in social roles are evident. Although in general, as a female writer, she does not dare to disobey the social rules of her time and follows patriarchal norms to internalize mostly male aesthetic standards. It can be said that a certain amount of guilt can be found in Brontë's writings so that Wuthering Heights simultaneously strengthens and weakens patriarchal ideology and is ideologically ambivalent. In both novels, there are streaks of concerns and anxieties that are caused by the protagonists' individual position as "the second sex," which is the common anxiety of women all over the world.